

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAR ES 01101 161253Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4364
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAR ES SALAAM 1101

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, TZ
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NYERERE ON CURRENT SITUATION IN ZAIRE

REF: STATE 058185

1. SUMMARY. NYERERE (A) ACCEPTS SPECIAL US ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE TO DATE WITHOUT DEMUR, (B) INDICATES HE SHARES OUR CONCERN ABOUT TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF COUNTRY, BUT (C) DOES NOT COME UP WITH ANYTHING SPECIFIC FOR AFRICA TO DO ABOUT PROBLEM -- UNLESS MOBUTU ASKS FOR AFRICAN PEACE-MAKING EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ACCORDANCE REFTTEL, I SAW PRESIDENT NYERERE MID-DAY MARCH 16. HE ACCEPTED QUICKLY AND WITHOUT DEMUR MY DESCRIPTION OF LIMITED NATURE OF US SPECIAL ASSISTANCE IN
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RESPONSE TO MOBUTU'S REQUEST.

3. NYERERE SAID HE STILL BELIEVED NETO'S EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE KATANGAN INVASION BUT, MORE OR LESS CONFESSING THAT HE HAD NOT FOCUSED ON THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THE ACTION, HE WENT ON TO STRONGLY SECOND OUR CONCERN FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISRUPTION OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE. HE SAID HE WAS

WELL AWARE OF POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL ZAIRIAN TROUBLES ON THE NORTH-EASTERN AND EASTERN BORDERS. ALSO, THERE COULD BE BELGIAN MERCENARIES INVOLVED WITH THE KATANGANS AND NYERERE CERTAINLY DID NOT RELISH HAVING THE KATANGAN FLAG UNFURLED AGAIN IN AFRICA.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHAT AFRICA COULD BEST DO ABOUT THE SITUATION, NYERERE HAD LITTLE TO SAY BEYOND "YOU ARE RIGHT. WE MUST REALLY TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AND WORRY ABOUT IT." HE SAID HE CERTAINLY DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ON A PEACE-MAKING ROLE. HE DIDN'T SEE THE OAU AS A LIKELY ANSWER. MAYBE, SOMETHING COULD BE DONE IF MOBUTU WERE TO ASK FOR GOOD OFFICES FROM OTHER AFRICANS.

5. HE PICKED UP ON THE POINT ABOUT AFRICANS HAVING TO LEARN TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS AND SAID HE HAD TOLD THIS TO NETO IN THEIR RECENT CONVERSATIONS AND HE WAS STILL CONVINCED THAT MOBUTU HAD TO LEARN THIS LESSON TOO. COULD US TRY TO HELP GET IT HOME TO MOBUTU?

6. COMMENT: NYERERE'S ATTITUDE WAS SOBER BUT FRIENDLY. OUR PROMPT PROVISION OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON EXTENT OF OUR SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU SHOULD HELP DISPEL ANY EXAGGERATED RUMORS THAT DEVELOP ON SUBJECT. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT NYERERE HAD IN FACT NOT PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THE ZAIRE SITUATION. THIS COULD EXPLAIN HIS FAILURE TO COME UP WITH ANYTHING CONSTRUCTIVE IN TERMS OF AN AFRICAN SOLUTION, ALTHOUGH HE ALSO PROBABLY HAS A GENUINE RELUCTANCE TO GET INVOLVED AND A LOW OPINION OF THE OAU AS A VEHICLE FOR HANDLING MAJOR PROBLEMS.

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7. THE PRINCIPAL RESULT OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE MOMENT IS THAT WE HAVE MADE NYERERE AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ZAIRE SITUATION. I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF WE HEAR MORE FROM HIM ABOUT IT IN THE FUTURE.
SPAIN

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